AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the following paragraph at page 7, line 16 of the specification:

Alternatively, it is preferable that nozzles from which air is ~~brown~~ blown toward a bottom face of the self-propelled member are formed on the traveling field to form an air bearing layer between the bottom face and the traveling field to support the self-propelled member thereon.

Please add the following new paragraph at page 21, line 17 of the specification::

The configuration shown in Fig. 13A may be adopted. In this case, the compressor 120 is disposed below the platen 72. As indicated by arrows in the figure, air from the compressor 120 is blown toward the lower face of the self-propelled member 70 via opening formed in the platen 72 so that the air is caused to flow in every direction along the lower face of the self-propelled member 70. A thin air layer is accordingly formed between the self-propelled member 70 and the traveling face so that the self-propelled member 70 is supported by the air layer_ In a case where a skirt member 84 is provided around a circumferential portion of the lower face of the self-propelled member 70, the formation of such an air layer can be facilitated.

Please amend the following paragraph at page 24, line 5 of the specification as follows:

For example, nozzles from which air is ~~brown~~ blown toward a bottom face of the self-propelled member may be formed on the traveling field to form an air bearing layer between the bottom face and the traveling field to support the self-propelled member thereon.